AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for allowing multiple applications to cooperatively access the same hardware ~~a~~ resource, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

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a) registering a callback instruction for a first application that is using said hardware resource;

b) invoking said callback instruction to notify said first application of a request from a second application for the same said hardware resource; and

c) yielding said hardware resource to said second application provided said first application grants said request.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said hardware resource comprises interface circuitry coupled to multiple ports.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising ~~the step of~~:

registering said first application as a passive application, wherein a passive application defines said callback instruction.

4. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step b) is performed responsive to said request from said second application.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising ~~the step of~~:

providing notice to said first application that said second application is finished using said hardware resource, said notice indicating said hardware resource is available.

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6. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step c) further comprises ~~the steps of~~:

c1) closing said hardware resource for said first application; and

c2) conducting procedures for shutting down said first application.

7. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein a response granting said request is a Boolean true, and wherein a response denying said request is a Boolean false.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for allowing multiple applications to cooperatively access a same serial port, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a) opening said serial port for a first application, wherein said ~~step of~~ opening comprises registering a callback instruction for said first application;

b) receiving a request for the same said serial port from a second application;

c) invoking said callback instruction responsive to said request, wherein said ~~step of~~ invoking comprises ~~the steps of~~:

c1) sending notice to said first application of said request; and

c2) receiving from said first application a response to said notice; and

d) yielding the same said serial port to said second application provided said response from said first application grants said request and otherwise maintaining said serial port for said first application.

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9. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 8 further comprising ~~the step of~~:

registering said first application as a passive application.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said step d) further comprises ~~the step of~~:

receiving from said first application a response denying said request.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said step d) further comprises ~~the step of~~:

returning an error message to said second application when said serial port is not yielded to said second application.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 8 further comprising ~~the step of~~:

providing notice to said first application that said second application is finished using said serial port, said notice indicating said serial port is available.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said step c) further comprises ~~the steps of~~:

c3) closing said serial port for said first application; and

c4) conducting procedures for shutting down said first application.

14. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein a response granting said request is a Boolean true, and wherein a response denying said request is a Boolean false.

15. (Currently Amended) A portable computer system comprising:

a bus;

a serial port coupled to said bus;

a processor coupled to said bus; and

a memory coupled to said bus, said memory comprising instructions for implementing a method for allowing multiple applications residing on said computer system to cooperatively access the same said serial port, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a) opening said serial port for a first application, wherein said ~~step of~~ opening comprises registering a callback instruction for said first application;

b) receiving a request for the same said serial port from a second application;

c) invoking said callback instruction responsive to said request, wherein said ~~step of~~ invoking comprises ~~the steps of~~:

c1) sending notice to said first application of said request; and

c2) receiving from said first application a response to said notice; and

d) yielding said serial port to said second application provided said response from said first application grants said request and otherwise maintaining said serial port for said first application.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 15 wherein said method further comprises ~~the step of~~:

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registering said first application as a passive application.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 15 wherein said step d) of said method further comprises ~~the step of~~:

receiving from said first application a response denying said request.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 15 wherein said step d) of said method further comprises ~~the step of~~:

returning an error message to said second application when said serial port is not yielded to said second application.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 15 wherein said method further comprises ~~the step of~~:

providing notice to said first application that said second application is finished using said serial port, said notice indicating said serial port is available.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 15 wherein said step c) of said method further comprises ~~the steps of~~:

c3) closing said serial port for said first application; and

c4) conducting procedures for shutting down said first application.

21. (Original) The computer system of Claim 15 wherein a response granting said request is a Boolean true, and wherein a response denying said request is a Boolean false.